



How To ACQUIRE BARAKAH IN OUR LIVES

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IS'HAQ SAHIB DÂMAT BARAKATUHUM

Title: How to acquire Barakah in our lives?

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	2
ATTAIN BARAKAH BY RECITATION OF DUROOD	4
LOSS OF BLESSINGS	4
MISCONCEPTION OF BARAKAH	5
AN AMAZING INCIDENT.....	5
WHY ARE OUR LIVES VOID OF BLESSINGS	8
THE HARMS OF SINS.....	9
SPEAKING LIES.....	9
THE RESULT OF BARAKAH	9
FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACQUIRING BLESSINGS IN ONE’S LIFE	11

FOREWORD

We are living in an era where people continuously complain of not being able to meet their monthly expenses due to the high cost of living, lack of Barakah in wealth, time, etc.

Unfortunately, many people have misunderstood the concept of Barakah and thus regard Barakah as owning plenty of material wealth and possession. Barakah simply means that a person is able to fulfil all his needs in that which Allah ﷻ has provided, even though it may outwardly seem little.

In this booklet Hadrat Maulana Abdul Hamid Saheb D.B. has explained various ways of acquiring Barakah, and the need to protect oneself from those actions which destroy blessings. By acting upon these advices, Insha'Allah many of our problems will be solved. Ameen!

الحمد لله وكفى وسلام على عباده الذين اصطفى

الحمد لله منشئ الخلق من عدم..... ثم الصلوة على المختار في القدم

يا رب صل وسلم دائما ابدا على حبيبك على رسولك خير الخلق كلهم

مولاي صل وسلم دائما ابدا على بشير نذير محمدا

مولاي صل وسلم دائما ابدا على طه سيد المرسلين

بلغ سلامي روضة فيها النبي المحترم

يا خير من دفنت بالقاع اعظمه فطاب من طيبهن القاع والاكم

روحي الفداء لقبر انت ساكنه فيه العفاف وفيه الجود والكرم

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يا رب بلغ بالمصطفى مقاصدنا واغفر لنا ما مضى يا واسع الكرم

اما بعد فقد قال الله تبارك وتعالى اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ولو ان اهل القرى آمنوا واتقوا لفتحنا عليهم بركات
من السماء والارض ولكن كذبوا فاخذهم بما كانوا يكسبون صدق الله العظيم

ATTAIN BARAKAH BY RECITATION OF DUROOD

Being the day of Jumuah, we should increase our recitation of Salaawat (Durood) upon Rasulullah ﷺ. We should have a practice of reciting Durood Sharif hundred times daily at least, but this should be increased to three hundred times on the day of Jumuah for a start. There are numerous virtues for reciting Durood daily and particularly on the day of Jumuah. Excessive recitation of Durood is a means of Barakah (blessings) in one's life, home, etc.

LOSS OF BLESSINGS

Generally, we find people complaining that there isn't Barakah in anything, whether it is time, wealth, etc. We barely commence the New Year and the next thing we realise that it is drawing to its end. All the family members, including the wife and children are earning yet there is a shortfall at the end of the month. This should create within us the realisation that Barakah (blessings) are only from Allah ﷻ and not in huge incomes.

In fact, the actual thing is that we have to acquire the pleasure of Allah ﷻ; the problems or difficult situations that we face in life is due to displeasing Allah ﷻ. By displeasing Allah ﷻ we are deprived of Barakah. What is Barakah? Barakah is actually goodness from the side of Allah ﷻ, which can be experienced in whatever we have whether it is little or a lot (in quantity). A man that is blessed with Barakah in life spends his day with great enjoyment, peace of mind and contentment.

MISCONCEPTION OF BARAKAH

Unfortunately, we have misunderstood the concept of Barakah and therefore regard having an abundance of material things as Barakah. A man earning twenty thousand Rand desires to earn forty or sixty thousand Rand as this is Barakah according to his understanding.

A man may be earning R100 000.00 but if it is void of Barakah, he could either be robbed of his wealth, or the money could be withdrawn from his bank account due to some ill-legal scam, or he could invest his money expecting excellent returns but loses all his wealth due to the company being liquidated, or someone in the family falls ill and the hospital bills add to hundreds of thousands, etc. or a person works throughout the week but realises at the end of the week that he hasn't really achieved anything or progressed, in fact he is in the negative.

To get a glimpse of what Barakah actually is, we will have to spend time in the company of the righteous and pious where we will witness the tremendous amount of Barakat that they are blessed with.

AN AMAZING INCIDENT

The following incident pertaining to Barakah has been recorded in the books of Ahadith. A man with four sons had fallen ill. One of the sons said to his remaining brothers, "You may all attend to our father and not derive any inheritance from the estate, or either I will attend to his needs and leave out my portion of inheritance from the estate." The brothers opted for the latter, hence he attended to the father until his demise, and as agreed didn't take any portion of the estate.

Subsequently he had seen a dream in which he was told, “Go to a certain place and take hundred Dinars.” The son asked (in his dream), “Is there Barakah in it?” He was told that it was void of blessings. On awakening in the morning he narrated the dream to his wife who said, “Take it, for verily the blessing of the wealth is that we will purchase clothing for ourselves and live off the money,” but he refused to take it.

The following night he had seen a dream and was told, “Go to a certain place and take 10 Dinars (gold coins).” Again he asked, “Is there Barakah in it?” He was told that there isn’t any Barakah in it. In the morning he narrated the dream to his wife who replied as she had replied the previous day, but he refused to take the wealth.

On the third night he had seen a dream in which he was told that he should go to a particular place and take one Dinar (gold coin). Again he asked, “Is there any Barakah in it?” The answer was in the positive. He fetched the gold coin and proceeded to the market where he found a person carrying two fish. He enquired the price and was told that it is being sold for a Dinar. He purchased both the fish and returned home, where he cut open the fish and found (in the belly of every fish) such a pearl the likeness of which was never seen before.

At the same time, the king was looking to purchase a pearl but was unable to source one. Having discovered the pearl, he sold one pearl to the king at the price of 30 mules laden with gold. When the king saw the pearl he said, “This pearl is useless except with its match or pair, thus you should search for its match even if you have to pay twice the price.” The people returned to him and asked, “Do you have the pair or match of the pearl (that we had purchased) for which we are prepared to

pay you twice the amount of what we have already paid?" He asked, "Are you really prepared to pay double the amount?" They replied, "Yes!" He then sold them the missing piece of the pearl at the price of 60 mules laden with gold.

حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ بْنُ أَحْمَدَ، ثنا إِسْحَاقُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الدَّبَرِيِّ، ثنا عَبْدُ الرَّزَّاقِ، ثنا مَعْمَرٌ، عَنِ ابْنِ طَلَّوُسٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، قَالَ: كَانَ رَجُلًا لَهُ أَرْبَعَةُ بَنِينَ فَمَرَضَ فَقَالَ [ص:8] أَحَدُهُمْ: "إِنَّمَا أَنْ تَمْرَضُوهُ وَلَيْسَ لَكُمْ مِنْ مِيرَاثِهِ شَيْءٌ وَإِنَّمَا أَنْ أَمْرَضُوهُ وَلَيْسَ لِي مِنْ مِيرَاثِهِ شَيْءٌ، فَأَلَا: مَرَضُهُ وَلَيْسَ لَكَ مِنْ مِيرَاثِهِ شَيْءٌ. قَالَ: فَمَرَضَهُ حَتَّى مَاتَ وَلَمْ يَأْخُذْ مِنْ مِيرَاثِهِ شَيْئًا، قَالَ: فَأُتِيَ فِي النَّوْمِ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: ائْتِ مَكَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَخُذْ مِنْهُ مِائَةَ دِينَارٍ. فَقَالَ فِي نَوْمِهِ: أَفِيهَا بَرَكَهٌ؟ قَالُوا: لَا. قَالَ: فَأَصْبَحَ فَذَكَرَ ذَلِكَ لِامْرَأَتِهِ فَقَالَتْ افْرَأْتَهُ: خُذْهَا فَإِنَّ مِنْ بَرَكَتِهَا أَنْ نَكْتَسِبَ مِنْهَا وَنَعِيشَ مِنْهَا، فَأَبَى، فَلَمَّا أَمْسَى أَتَى فِي النَّوْمِ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: ائْتِ مَكَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَخُذْ مِنْهُ عَشْرَةَ دنانيرَ فَقَالَ: أَفِيهَا بَرَكَهٌ؟ قَالُوا: لَا. فَلَمَّا أَصْبَحَ قَالَ ذَلِكَ لِامْرَأَتِهِ فَقَالَتْ لَهُ مِثْلَ مَقَالَتِهَا الْأُولَى فَأَبَى أَنْ يَأْخُذَهَا، فَأُتِيَ فِي اللَّيْلَةِ الثَّلَاثَةِ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: ائْتِ مَكَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَخُذْ مِنْهُ دِينَارًا فَقَالَ: أَفِيهِ بَرَكَهٌ؟ قَالُوا: نَعَمْ. قَالَ: فَذَهَبَ فَأَخَذَهُ ثُمَّ ذَهَبَ بِهِ إِلَى السُّوقِ، فَإِذَا هُوَ بِرَجُلٍ يَحْمِلُ خَوْثِينَ، فَقَالَ: بِكُمْ هُمَا؟ قَالَ: بِدِينَارٍ. قَالَ: فَأَخَذَهُمَا مِنْهُ بِدِينَارٍ ثُمَّ انْطَلَقَ بِهِمَا فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتَهُ شَقَّ بَطْنَهُمَا فَوَجَدَ فِي بَطْنِ كُلِّ وَاحِدَةٍ مِنْهُمَا دُرَّةً لَمْ يَرَ النَّاسُ مِثْلَهُمَا. قَالَ: فَبَعَثَ الْمَلِكُ يَطْلُبُ دُرَّةً يَشْتَرِيهَا فَلَمْ تَوْجَدْ إِلَّا عِنْدَهُ فَبَاعَهَا بِوَفْرِ ثَلَاثِينَ بَعْلًا ذَهَبًا، فَلَمَّا رَأَاهَا الْمَلِكُ قَالَ: مَا تَصْنَعُ هَذِهِ إِلَّا بِالْأُخْتِ، اطْلُبُوا أُخْتَهَا وَإِنْ أَضَعَفْتُمْ، قَالَ: فَجَاءُوهُ فَقَالُوا: أَعِنْدَكَ أُخْتُهَا وَنُعْطِيكَ ضِعْفَ مَا أُعْطَيْنَاكَ؟ قَالَ: وَتَفْعَلُونَ؟ قَالُوا: نَعَمْ.

قَالَ: فَأَعْطَاهُمْ إِيَّاهَا بِضِعْفٍ مَا أَخَذُوا الْأُولَى (مصنف عبد الرزاق)

Today, no person will be able tell us whether a particular business deal is full of blessings or void of blessings. However, there are such guidelines available, that if we follow them we too will acquire peace of mind, contentment and blessings in our lives.

WHY ARE OUR LIVES VOID OF BLESSINGS

We will discuss a few ways of acquiring this Barakah. However, it is important that we refrain from those actions that will cause decrease in blessings, and that is primarily refraining from Haraam (impermissible) actions. In order to rectify the situation we will have to establish a relationship with the Ulema and Muftis, who will then guide us along.

Many of our business transactions are not in accordance with Shariah, either due to our wealth being linked to interest (Riba) or our transactions are not Shariah compliant. For example, a person orders two kilo's of fish from a family member. When the buyer enquires the price, the family member says, "Don't worry, we will sort it out." This is termed as a corrupt/invalid sale as stipulating the price of the commodity at the time of the sale is a requisite for the validity of the transaction. At times the quantity of the ordered item is not stipulated which also results in the sale being incorrect.

Another common example of a sale being invalid is where a person takes his vehicle to the mechanic for repairs. On enquiring the price for repairing the vehicle, the mechanic says, "Don't worry! We will sort it out." Here too, the transaction is incorrect due to the fee for repairing the vehicle is not fixed. We as consumers should be aware of these rulings, in fact, if we are not aware then we should acquire the relevant knowledge from the Ulema so that our transactions are recognised as permissible and valid in Shariah.

THE HARMS OF SINS

The second cause that leads to loss of Barakah is indulging in sins.

If Allah ﷻ opens up the doors of blessings, life will be a pleasure even in this day and age. We commonly notice that there are those brothers that are continuously out in the path of Allah ﷻ, whilst only a minimum amount of time is devoted to business, yet they are living comfortably. Our definition and understanding of Barakat is that a person should own a double storey house, with a stunning garden, swimming pool, a waterfall feature, etc. This is definitely not the definition of Barakah.

SPEAKING LIES

Speaking lies is another factor that leads to deprivation of Barakah.

THE RESULT OF BARAKAH

If Barakah is found in wealth, it will be spent in the correct avenues such as spending on Masajid, Madrasahs, on the widows, orphans, etc. Spending one's wealth in such causes is actually depositing into one's personal account of the Aakhirah, which he will enjoy in the next world. At the same time, Allah ﷻ will protect his wealth in this world and as a result he won't be 'taken for a ride' (be deceived.)

On the other hand, wealth that is spent on holidays, weekend breaks, etc. is void of Barakah. Generally, such people are short of funds by the middle of the month. Nowadays, we buy things that we don't need, with money that we don't have (bank

loans), to impress people that we don't like (live up to the Jones's.)

Unfortunately, the new trend is that we are squandering our wealth on Deeni functions such as on the occasion of Nikah.

Rasulullah ﷺ is reported to have said,

ان اعظم النكاح بركة ايسره مؤونة (شعب الایمان للبيهقي)

“Verily the Nikah with the greatest Barakah (blessings) is the one in which the least expenses are incurred”

This can be understood from a logical parable. In the previous times, we would get a scale with two pans, the light side rises whilst the heavy side drops. Similarly, the more expenses incurred in our Nikahs and the more work carried out, the less the blessings. On the other hand, if a simple Nikah is conducted in the Masjid accompanied with the payment of Mahr and followed by a small Walimah which comprises of a few pious people, a few family members, and a few poor people, the pan of Barakah will outweigh the opposing pan. The consequence of such a Nikah is eternal happiness between the spouses, unlike the many marriages that are witnessed today, where the couple are on honeymoon for a week and then fall from the moon into a bed of thorns.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACQUIRING BLESSINGS IN ONE'S LIFE

1. Earning halaal sustenance is a means of acquiring an abundance of Barakah in one's life.
2. Performance of our five daily Salaah with Jamaat in the Masjid.

The non-Muslims cannot fathom that the Muslims are prepared to close their stores on the day of Jumuah and proceed for Salaah, particularly when the day of Jumuah is considered as one of the busiest days of the week for the businessmen. Further, the Muslims do not consume interest, in fact they discharge obligatory charity in the form of Zakaat and optional charity in the form of Lillah yet they are living comfortable lives. How is this possible? This is all the result of the Barakah which comes from Allah ﷻ.

3. One Sahaabi complained to Rasulullah ﷺ that he is experiencing financial constraint. Rasulullah ﷺ said, "On entering your home, make Salaam to the inmates of the home loudly and cheerfully. Thereafter recite Surah Ikhlāas followed by Durood Sharif." The Sahaabi says, "By acting on these advices, I was blessed with so much of wealth in a short while that I was able to spend on my family and neighbours."

4. Recitation of Quraan Sharif within our homes is a source of great blessings and Barakah. For a start, we should recite a minimum of one page at home and one page at the business.

5. Making Salaam amongst ourselves is also a source of deriving Barakah. Unfortunately, many of these aspects are missing in our lives, yet if acted upon will be a source of blessings. A

person that goes out in the path of Allah ﷻ or spends time in a Khanqah and acquires Taqwa will acquire this Barakah in his life as well. May Allah ﷻ grant us the Taufeeq of acting on these advices. Ameen!

KHANQAH AKHTARI, AZAADVILLE

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- 15 FAZAAIL-E-DUROOD
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- 18 RIGHTS OF THE QURAN
- 19 THE HARMS OF LUSTFUL GLANCES
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- 21 WHISPERS OF SPAIN
- 22 MUHARRAM
- 23 THE IMPORTANCE OF ZIKRULLAH
- 24 QALB-E-SALEEM
- 25 YA AYYUHAN NAASU'ABUDU
- 26 A GREAT SORROW
- 27 BUKHARI KHATM
- 28 LOVE OF ALLAH
- 29 KITAAB-UT TA'AAM
- 30 OUR ATTITUDE AFTER RAMDAAN
- 31 REMEDY TO EVIL THOUGHTS
- 32 RIGHTS OF RASULULLAH ﷺ
- 33 SEERAT OF RASULULLAH ﷺ
- 34 THE MONTH OF SAFR
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- 36 HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF
MADINAH AND UMRAH
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- 39 JOURNEY TOWARDS ALLAH
- 40 THE IMPORTANCE TAZKIYA-E-NAFS
- 41 THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING THE ADHAAN
- 42 FASTING & TAQWA
- 43 THE IMPORTANCE NECESSITY AND VIRTUES OF
SUNNATS
- 44 FASTING HAS BEEN PRESCRIBED FOR YOU
- 45 FACTORS THAT LEAD TO IMMORALITY IN SOCIETY
- 46 THE DAY OF ZUL HIJJAH AND THE SPIRIT OF
QURBANI
- 47 AN-NASEEHA LIL MUALLIMEEN
- 48 REMEMBER ALLAH ﷻ AT ALL TIMES
- 49 THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING ONE'S TONGUE
- 50 SALAWAAT UPON RASULULLAH ﷺ
- 51 KITAABUL LIBAAS
- 52 THE IMPORTANCE OF ZIKRULLAH &
MURAAQABAH
- 53 SILHOUETTED GLIMPSES
- 54 THE SCHOLARS & SOCIAL MEDIA
- 55 MAINTAINING A BALANCE IN ALL MATTERS OF
LIFE
- 56 SAFEGUARDING ONE'S TIME
- 57 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND THE
KNOWLEDGE OF DEEN
- 58 JIHAAD OF THE NAFS
- 59 DAILY WAZAAIF
- 60 ADVICES FOR THOSE TRAVELLING IN THE PATH
OF ALLAH ﷻ
- 61 THE STATUS OF IMAAM ABU HANIFA AND THE
NEED FOR TAQLEED
- 62 THE SEERAT OF OUR BELOVED NABI ﷺ
- 63 RAMADAAN AN AUSPICIOUS MONTH
- 64 NIKAH! HOW TO ATTAIN ITS TRUE BLISS AND
REALITY & THE MUSLIM HUSBAND
- 65 SIGNS THAT ALLAH TA'ALA HAS OPEN ONE'S
HEART
- 66 MAXIMISING OUR DEEDS
- 67 ALLAH ﷻ ALONE IS OUR SUSTAINER
- 68 RUN TOWARDS ALLAH ﷻ
- 69 DEEN IS PRECIOUS
- 70 EXTERNAL RESEMBLANCE IS VALUABLE
- 71 ARE OUR ACTIONS ACCEPTED
- 72 FAWAIDE-SUHBAT - BENEFIT OF SUHBAT
- 73 HOW TO ACQUIRE BARAKAH IN OUR LIVES